



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

<p>Complete if Known</p>						
				Application Number	09/996,802	
				Filing Date	November 30, 2001	
				First Named Inventor	SATO	
				Group Art Unit	1712	
Examiner Name				Feely, Michael J.		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	2922-172	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
MF	/	5,674,611	A	Saida et al.	10/07/1997

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee of Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	T ⁶
		Office ³ Code	Number ⁴	Kind ⁵ (if known)			
MF	/	JP	11-140281	A	Mitsui Mining & Smelting Co. Ltd.	05/25/1999	AB
MF	/	JP	11-005828	A	Mitsui Mining & Smelting Co. Ltd.	01/12/1999	AB
MF	/	JP	08-253559	A	Dainippon Ink & Chem. Inc.	01/10/1996	AB
MF	/	EP	0843509	A1	Mitsui Mining & Smelting Co. Ltd.	05/20/1998	AB

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	11/10/03
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code. ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached. AB indicates that only an English language abstract is attached.